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CIRCULATION.

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HIGH GRADING.

In the early days of the Yukon gold excitement gold stealing was known to be prevalent and was winked at. The rich creeks of Eldorado, Bonanza, and Gold Run were particularly notorious as fields of operation for gold thieves. We have been credibly informed that in four years not less than eight or ten million dollars worth of gold was taken from these spectacular workings by persons other than the owners.

The gold mines of Nova Scotia have yielded more gold than shown by official returns. Many of the gold veins of the province are noted for the beauty of the specimen gold that they contain. In the palmy sixties hundreds of ounces found their way out of the mine by unauthorized channels.

The purloining of amalgam from the battery plates of stamp-mills is another prevalent variety of misappropriation.

As indicated before in the "Canadian Mining Journal," silver stealing has assumed serious proportions in Cobalt. Assertions to the effect that high grading is carried on to the extent of more than thirty thousand ounces per month, were received at first with incredulity. But, while it is impossible to estimate precisely the toll exacted by the silver thief, there is strong evidence, both direct and indirect, that the case has not been exaggerated.

Apparently the playful habit of enriching oneself at the expense of a mere mine owner is looked upon as an excusable failing. It is time for this point of view to be corrected.

Gold stealing and silver stealing are unqualified theft, and justice demands that the thieves be punished promptly and efficaciously.

Unfortunately our statute books do not provide effective means for bringing high graders to justice. Strong representations, however, have been made to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa and it is believed that the necessary Federal enactments will be promulgated before the close of this session. If the matter is laid over until next session it will be the duty of all the mining provinces to make a combined effort towards clearing up the situation.

A NOTEWORTHY DISCOVERY.

The world's production of tungsten ores amounts to only four thousand tons, and this in spite of a growing demand. From Queensland and the United States comes the principal supply. The prices paid are not constant, owing largely to the fact that much of the ore is mined in isolated districts where the miner has